

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 THE HA 04118 260904Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 IO-13 NSF-01 OES-09 DOE-15
SOE-02 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /132 W
-----059979 260916Z /15

P R 251440Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3044
INFO EC COLLECTIVE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 4118

USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, UR, NL
SUBJECT: DUTCH WEIGH MOVES IN DISAPPROVAL OF SOVIET
DISSIDENTS' TRIALS

REF: THE HAGUE 4065

1. SUMMARY. THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO
EXAMINE THE MEASURES IT CAN TAKE TO EMPHASIZE ITS
DISPLEASURE WITH THE RECENT DISSIDENTS' TRIALS IN THE
SOVIET UNION. THIS FOLLOWS VICE-PRIME MINISTER WIEGEL'S ANNOUNCE-
MENT JULY 20 TO THE EFFECT THAT GON WAS PUTTING A
HOLD ON ITS SOVIET RELATIONSHIP. THE NETHERLANDS
WILL PROBABLY DISCUSS POSSIBLE STEPS IN THE EC
POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING THIS WEEK; THE SUBJECT
IS ALSO EXPECTED TO BE ADDRESSED AT THE WEEKLY
CABINET MEETING JULY 27. END SUMMARY.

2. THERE HAS BEEN DOMESTIC CRITICISM OF VICE-PRIME
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 THE HA 04118 260904Z

MINISTER WIEGEL'S MENTION OF A "FREEZE" IN DUTCH-SOVIET
RELATIONS. CRITICISM CENTERS MAINLY AROUND
THE FEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT MAY BE CUTTING OFF ITS
NOSE TO SPITE ITS FACE--THAT IT MIGHT, BY FREEZING
CULTURAL RELATIONS, FOR EXAMPLE, RUN COUNTER TO ITS
OWN HELSINKI COMMITMENTS TO WORK TO EXPAND CULTURAL
RELATIONS. SPOKESMEN FOR THE THREE MAJOR POLITICAL

PARTIES-CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC, LABOR AND LIBERAL-ALL CAUTIONED THE GOVERNMENT AGAINST MOVING PRECIPITATELY. NEWSPAPER COMMENTARY HAS ALSO WARNED AGAINST MOVING TOO FAR TOO FAST, AND HAS NOTED THE NARROW RANGE OF POSSIBILITIES AVAILABLE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO MAKE ITS HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY CLEAR.

3. THE NETHERLANDS-USSR RELATIONSHIP IS NOT A BROAD ONE. OUT OF A 100 BILLION GUILDERS ANNUAL TOTAL OF EXPORTS AND IMPORTS, DUTCH-SOVIET TRADE AMOUNTED IN 1977 TO 1.5 BILLION. THAT INCLUDES 500 MILLION GUILDERS IN EXPORTS TO THE SOVIET UNION (CHIEFLY MACHINES AND ELECTRICAL APPARATUS) AND IMPORT OF SOVIET PRODUCTS TOTALLING APPROXIMATELY 1 BILLION, (PRIMARILY PETROLEUM AND MINERALS). A CULTURAL AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION DATING FROM 1967 PROVIDES FOR A YEARLY EXCHANGE FROM BOTH COUNTRIES FOR SIX OR SEVEN PROFESSORS, THREE HEALTH CARE SPECIALISTS, TEN PEOPLE IN THE CULTURAL AREA, THREE EDUCATORS (WHOSE VISIT HAS NOW BEEN CANCELLED) AND SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 10-15 STUDENTS. THE AGREEMENT ALSO PROVIDES FOR GIFTS OF BOOKS AND DOCUMENTATION FOR THE NETHERLANDS CHAIR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MOSCOW AND FOR THE STUDY OF SLAVIC LANGUAGES AT DUTCH UNIVERSITIES. EXCHANGES OF MUSIC AND DANCE COMPANIES ARE ALSO ORGANIZED UNDER THE AGREEMENT.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 THE HA 04118 260904Z

4. THERE ARE NO INDICATIONS THAT THE NETHERLANDS IS CONSIDERING A LIMIT TO ITS SOVIET TRADE. MEASURES BEING CONSIDERED SEEM TO BE LIMITED MORE OR LESS TO THE CULTURAL AND SOCIAL AREA. FOR EXAMPLE, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE JOINT COMMITTEE CHARGED WITH IMPLEMENTING THE CULTURAL AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION MAY POSTPONE ITS DEVELOPMENT OF THE 1979 CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM. WE HAVE HEARD THAT AGRICULTURE MINISTER VAN DER STEE CANCELLED A RETURN VISIT TO RUSSIA. A VISIT TO MOSCOW PLANNED BY STATE SECRETARY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS KONING AND THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LIBERAL PARTY (VVD) KORTHALS ALTES MAY BE CANCELLED ALSO. IT HAS ALSO BEEN REPORTED THAT AN EXHIBIT OF DUTCH FOOD PROCESSING MACHINERY IN MOSCOW WAS CLOSED DOWN PREMATURELY, BASED ON A DECISION OF THE COMPANIES INVOLVED.

5. MUCH OF THE CRITICISM OF THE CABINET'S ANNOUNCEMENT ARISES FROM DOMESTIC POLITICAL CRITICISM OF WIEGEL AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDER VAN DER KLAAUW. HOWEVER, THE DUTCH PUBLIC SEEMS TO BE VERY MUCH AWARE THAT THE MEANS AT THE GOVERNMENT'S DISPOSAL FOR INFLUENCING SOVIET GOVERNMENT BEHAVIOR TOWARDS DISSI-

DENTS MAY NOT BE ALL THAT PRODUCTIVE, ESPECIALLY
IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THE NETHERLANDS REPRESENTS
ISRAELI INTERESTS IN MOSCOW. IN SUM, WE EXPECT THAT
THE NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT WILL SEEK, ESPECIALLY IN
THE EC, TO TAKE SOME MEASURES TO EMPHASIZE ITS STAND ON
THE DISSIDENTS BUT THESE MEASURES MAY NOT BE AS FAR
REACHING AS WOULD HAVE BEEN EXPECTED FROM LAST
WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENT.
BROWN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TRIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978THEHA04118
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780306-0275
Format: TEL
From: THE HAGUE USEEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780721/aaaaaruf.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 880ae76c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 THE HAGUE 4065
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1890279
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DUTCH WEIGH MOVES IN DISAPPROVAL OF SOVIET DISSIDENTS' TRIALS
TAGS: SHUM, PGOV, UR, NL
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/880ae76c-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014